

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing a fixed denture (18,58) comprising:  
identifying the surface of a tooth preparation (110);  
relating the identified surface to a near net shape version of the denture (120); and  
altering the near net shape version (130) to produce a denture having an inner profile which substantially replicates the surface of the tooth preparation (140).
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein, the inner profile includes an offset (36).
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein, the surface of the tooth is identified by digitising the surface.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein, data produced when the surface is digitised is manipulated by one or both of producing a wax model (54) or virtual wax-up of the denture.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein, data produced when the surface is digitised is related to a near net shape version using best fit techniques.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein, the near net shape is altered by machining.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein, the near net shape version is a pre-formed sintered ceramic shell (20).
8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein, the pre-formed sintered ceramic shell (20) comprises one of a plurality of standard tooth shapes (40) from which the most appropriate shape is chosen.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein, the pre-formed sintered ceramic shell (20) comprises an individually produced tooth shape (42).
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7 wherein, the pre-formed sintered ceramic shell (20) is made by one of single (48) or double (49) sided pressing.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein, a reference feature (60) is provided on both the near net shape version (50) and the preparation.
12. (Currently Amended) A fixed denture manufactured according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1.